

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02539 070946Z

15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8840

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: MALI/UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

REF: OUAGA 2483

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AT FARANAMA DECEMBER 4 AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING
BETWEEN GENERAL LAMIZANA AND COLONEL TRAORE: QUOTE
WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GOOD NEIGHBOR RELATIONS BETWEEN
REPUBLIC OF UPPER VOLTA AND REPUBLIC OF MALI, HIS
EXCELLENCY GENERAL EL HADJ ABOUBACAR SANGOULE LAMIZANA,
PRESIDENT OF THEQCOUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND CHIEF OF
STATE OF UPPER VOLTA AND HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL MOUSSA
TRAORE, PRESIDENT OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL
LIBERATION, PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT AND CHIEF OF STATE
OF MALI, ANXIOUS TO CONSOLIDATE THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP
AND BROTHERHOOD WHICH HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN THE
PEOPLES OF THEIR COUNTRIES, CONVINCED OF THE
NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THIS GOOD
NEIGHBOR POLICY, HAVE MET AT THE TILLAGE OF FARANAMA
IN THE REPUBLIC OF UPPER VOLTA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4,
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PAGE 02 OUAGAD 02539 070946Z

1974.

THE CHIEF OF STATE OF MALI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MAJOR PHILIFING SISSOKO, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MCNL, BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES SAMBA SISSOKO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION; BY MAJOR KISSUINA TOUNKARA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR AND SECURITY; BY MR. ALY CISSE, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS; AND THE GOVERNORS OF SIKASSO, SEGOU, MOPTI AND GAO.

THE CHIEF OF STATE OF UPPER VOLTA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEAN BILA ZAGRE, MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND SECURITY; BY MAJOR SAYE ZERBO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; BY CAPTAIN HOUNSOUHO CHARLES BAMBARA, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND PTT; BY MR HENRI OUATTARA, AMBASSADOR OF UPPER VOLTA IN MALI; BY MR CHARLES BILA KABORE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY; BY MR SEYDOU TRAORE, DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF PRESIDENT; BY THE PREFECTS OF SAHEL AND HIGH BASINS; AND BY SU-PREFECTS OF DJIBO AND GOROM-GOROM.

DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE RELATED ESSENTIALLY TO BORDER QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TOOK PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF BROTHERHOOD MARKED BY FRANKNESS AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. THE CHIEFS OF STATE AGREED TO CONVENE AT REGULAR INTERVALS THE PERMANENT COMMISSION ESTABLISHED FOR A JOINT REVIEW OF PROBLEMS AFFECTING BOTH COUNTRIES.

THIS MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE RESULTED IN THE ELIMINATION OF ALL MISUNDERSTANDINGS CREATED BY RUMORS AND SPECULATIONS. THE CHIEF OF STATE OF MALI AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY THANK HIS EX-CELLENCY GENERAL EL HADJ ABOUBACAR SANGOULE LAMIZANA, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF UPPER VOLTA FOR THE WARM AND BROTHERLY RECEPTION THEY RECEIVED. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE WAS ACCOMPLISHED DURING MEETING BETWEEN LAMIZANA AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OUAGAD 02539 070946Z

TRAORE. BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA REMAINS, BUT WILL PRESUMABLY BE PLACED ON BACK BURNER FOR TIME BEING.
GRAHAM

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